



The GRANGE

Issue: 90

DECEMBER 2002

CHAIR'S REPORT

I find myself with very little to report, only the very commonplace. That perhaps, is to be desired since it indicates that The Grange is running smoothly. Members' Shopping Week is behind us once again, and once again The Grange "super-cooks" Jane Ash and Nancy Lofft made a large quantity of our famous Grange Shortbread. This was put out for the shoppers to help themselves. As usual this was a big hit!

Here at The Grange, for many years, we have had monthly training sessions. This year we have, shall we say, expanded our horizons somewhat. Instead of the usual lectures based on the House, the Boulton family and the history of Upper Canada, we have had talks in connection with the exhibitions in the Gallery. David Wistow of the Education Department gave us a great insight into the current collection of pictures from the Hermitage, *Voyage into Myth French paintings from Gauguin to Matisse*. Then, this month, Jessica Morden an intern in Prints and drawings, gave us a guided tour of *Tissot and the Victorian Woman*. Both were fascinating.

Now of course we can look forward to the Christmas season. We will be decorating The Grange on December 2nd. And, on the same day holding a sewing "Bee" to augment our supply of costume aprons which must be sewn by hand. (Sewing machines were not in common use in Upper Canada until the 1850s).

December 9th will be the Christmas Party given by the Grange Executive for the volunteers and for other invited guests.

This always involves a great deal of planning - the invitations - the refreshments - etc. However the planning gives the Executive much pleasure, and the end result is always a great success.

One more fairly commonplace item: many visitors ask to take photographs of our costumed volunteers. Some ask to be photographed with the volunteers. Consequently pictures of Grange volunteers must appear in family albums all over the world. However last month a visitor from Columbus, Ohio took pictures of Thursday volunteers Ann Morrison and Mary Aziz and was kind enough to send us copies. One of the photographs is reproduced here. if all visitors did this what an international album we would have!



Happy Holidays everyone!!

- Avril Stringer, Chair

Photograph:
Thursday volunteers,
Ann Morrison and
Mary Aziz

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2003 DATES FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION SUPPERS

Please check the
bulletin board for
more information on
upcoming training suppers.

The Very Rev. Mr. Max Woolaver
speaking on
St. George-the-Martyr Church
January 20, 2003
Monday, 5:30pm

Richard Hill, Curatorial Assistant
speaking on the AGO renovations
February 17, 2003
Monday, 5:30pm

John Wichelow
"Meet Mr. William Morris"
March 17, 2003
Monday, 5:30pm

Thank you from:
Helen Hatton,
Modern Kitchen Committee &
Helvi Hunter,
Continuing Education Committee

NEW VOLUNTEERS

Please Welcome:
Ioanna Hermenean (Tues)
Janna Sahin (Wed. Br.)
Evis Buli (Wed.Br.)
Lynn No (Sat.)
Donna Scott (Sun.)
David Kalbun (Wed. Br.)
Anne Lefoulon (Sat.)
Monica Ospina (Sat.)
John Costa (Tues.)
Diane Collier (Sat.)
Pascal Chenuat (Sun.)
Cindy Allen (Wed.)

Most of you may remember
David as our co-op student
from 2 yrs ago.

Both Evis and Lynn were T.B.S.
students at The Grange this
past summer and decided to
stay with us.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

I noticed that The Grange is now decorated for the Christmas season. Where is the Christmas tree?

- Volunteer Interpreter

Dear Volunteer,

The Grange has been decorated for the Christmas season for the period around 1840. This is before the custom of decorating a Christmas tree was introduced - a custom that Queen Victoria adopted later.

WEBSITES OF INTEREST

"In the fall issue of Heritage Columns, a newsletter published by Heritage Toronto, this list of interesting web sites on Toronto's natural heritage was published.

A web site about Toronto's ravines, including the Rouge River:
www.ryerson.ca/vtoronto/wwwsite/themes/cultrec/html/ravines.htm

A web site about Toronto's lost creeks, such as the Taddle, Garrison and Burke: www.lostrivers.ca/

The official web site of The Toronto Field Naturalists: www.sources.com/tfn
The Toronto Conservation Authority has responsibility for the greater Toronto area: www.trca.on.ca/

Discovery walks help you learn more about the history behind the City's parks:
www.city.toronto.on.ca/parks/recreation_facilities/discovery_walks/discover_index.htm
(the spaces in this address are actually underscores (_)."

ALSO ON-LINE:

The Law Society of Upper Canada Archives has just launched a new online exhibition. *Neighbours* is a collection of 30 historical photos that tell the story of the neighbourhood around Osgoode Hall in Toronto. *Neighbours* can be viewed at the Law society's virtual museum at:

library.lsuc.on.ca/GL/arch_museum.htm

The Grange Volunteer Executive 2002-2003

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Helvi Hunter

HOUSE COMMITTEE

Jane Heinemann

HISTORIC KITCHENS

Pauline Lee

MODERN KITCHEN

Helen Hatton

STAFFING

Catherine Stroud

DAY CAPTAINS

Monday: Jane Heinemann
Tuesday: Elvira Putrus
Wednesday: Cathy Stroud
Wednesday Bridge: Helvi Hunter
Wednesday Eve: Marg McGuigan
Thursday: June O'Brien
Friday: Beverley Sutton
Saturday: Ninette Gyorody
Sunday: Edna Rigby

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REMINDER

Please submit news articles &
letters to the editor for the
next Grange newsletter by
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2003.

CURATORIAL CORNER

BY JENNY RIEGER

You are all aware that The Grange is a National Historic Site, what you might not know is that, as an NHS in Ontario, we are part of the National Historic Sites Alliance of Ontario. This organization has been in existence for 5 or 6 years and was formed to promote the commemorative integrity and value of National Historic Sites through co-operative action by site owners, managers and stakeholders. Commemorative integrity is what the site values. In our case it is the Georgian architecture of The Grange (although we do value other things). The NHSAO members include historic house museums and forts, and public and private buildings. Each year they have a conference and this year it was in Toronto at Fort York. I thought you might be interested in some of the presentations that were done over the two day conference.

The conference had a strong focus on issues of heritage and heritage preservation. John Sewell was our keynote speaker and his presentation focused strongly on the risks to heritage in Ontario. He noted that 25% of designated heritage buildings have either been de-designated or torn down. And yet, with concerns about globalization, local communities are beginning to examine their own values. Through this concern can come action. For those of you who would like to become more involved, pressing issues are the development around Fort York, the changes to Union Station, changes to the Island Airport (all National Historic Sites) and preservation or commemoration of Toronto's first parliament. Sewell also recommended a powerful book on the importance of preserving our built heritage: Preserving the World's Great Cities by Anthony Tung.

Issues of heritage preservation continued the second day with discussions on the use of the term "National Historic Site". Speakers from St. Anne's Church, Bell Homestead and Sharon Temple took different positions. How do we determine what is important as an NHS? Why should it be designated? While being recognized is important and allows a site's story to be added to our national heritage, is this enough without adequate funding? How do we determine what is included in the designation? In the case of St. Anne's it is the murals not the building. For Sharon Temple, it is the temple and not the 19th century buildings on the site.

There was also an interesting session on the situation of the approved development around Fort York, the efforts to modify the plans (which failed) and how a computer simulation was used to show the effects of building heights on one's experience of a place. This programme can show, in 3-D, possible effects of surrounding buildings from a variety of different viewpoints. By being able to actually see the effect, it is hoped that better planning can be done.

Each conference includes a session on a conservation issue. This year, Chris Borgal, of the architectural firm Goldsmith, Borgal and Co. presented a workshop on masonry and masonry conservation issues. To summarize, water is usually always the problem with bricks and mortar issues. All-in-all, an excellent conference.

I would like to wish you and your families a very happy holiday season. You all make working here so special and I am grateful.

MULTI-LINGUAL GRANGE DESCRIPTION

Toronto being such a multi-cultural city, The Grange is no exception.

A revised binder has been prepared listing a description of The Grange in 16 languages. Wednesday evening volunteer, Tania Canis has put the list together and will be responsible for keeping it current and adding new translated versions of The Grange introduction script. Tania also holds a Certificate in Teaching English as a Second Language and herself speaks both English and Spanish.

If volunteers discover a language that is not in our book or the pages are running low please leave a request for Tania in the Wednesday evening shelf in the lounge area.

*Season's Greetings
Meilleurs Voeux
Felices Fiestas*

AWARD of DISTINCTION

Wednesday evening volunteer and editor of The Grange Newsletter, Elaine Maloney, was awarded an Alumni of Distinction Award from St. Clair College, Windsor, Ontario on Thursday, October 24, 2002.

For the first time in Canada, a pharmacy technician has been recognized in academic circles for excellence. Elaine Maloney, Practice Advisory Officer at the Ontario College of Pharmacists, graduated from the St. Clair College Pharmacy Assistant program in 1979.

The award recognizes an outstanding St. Clair Graduate - one who has achieved success and demonstrated a real commitment to others as a student, employee and volunteer. Elaine and 3 other St. Clair winners will join other Community College Alumni at the Premier's Alumni of Distinction Ceremonies to be held in Toronto in February 2003.

St.-George-the-Martyr

"The church of St.-George-the-Martyr was opened Nov 9, 1845...the third Church of England (Anglican) built in Toronto and was situated in the fashionable district then called Toronto West."

"Such institutions as the Home for the Aged, The Protestant Boys' Orphanage, the Down Town Church Workers' Association, St Faith's Lodge, Moorelands Camp, owe their inception to St. George's Church."

The Church of St James (now St James Cathedral) burned in 1839, was re-built and re-opened in 1844. At that time St James had a congregation of 6,000 but a seating capacity of 1,500. This emphasized the need for more parish churches. Subsequently, "Little" Trinity was opened in 1844 and St. George's in 1845.

Consideration was given to sites at King and John Street and on Park Street (now University Ave), both were rejected. At a meeting in February 1844 of City and church officials, including William Henry Boulton and Bishop Strachan, Mr. D'Arcy Boulton jr "offered a parcel of land" the present site of St George's, this offer was accepted. The church records estimate that this gift was the equivalent of between £300 and £400, a generous gift!

The history of St George's is connected in many ways with the history of The Grange, and the Boulton and Robinson families. As mentioned the land was a gift from D'Arcy Boulton jr. William Henry Boulton, as Mayor of the City was present at the meeting at which the gift was accepted. The Reverend Canon John D'Arcy Cayley was rector of St George's from 1875 to 1911. Canon Cayley was a son of Emma Robinson Cayley and William Cayley. Captain John Henry LeFroy, husband of Emily Robinson was a warden.

An article by Mrs Forsyth-Grant, published in The Globe in November 1910 told of a dispute involving the choir. As a sort of footnote to her article she said: "The Church had and still has two private pews, reached by small staircases, and in one of these always sat the late Mr and Mrs William Boulton, in two large armchairs, on the back of each being fixed a white antimacassar which showed up against the dark or black chair coverings."

Children's picnics were a feature of St. George's Sunday School, many of them held in Grange Park. "It was at one of these early gatherings a novel treat was given the children in the shape of a large montgolfier (hot air) balloon. Great was the excitement when the balloon was released."

During the North West Rebellion several of the St George's congregation served with the army, including a Miss Mary Mackenzie who volunteered her services as nurse, possibly the first nursing sister to serve with the Canadian army.

From: The Story of the CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE THE MARTYR of Toronto Canada, 1845-1945. Compiled By H.M. Harman & W.G. Upshaw
Research Committee

York Gazette, November 14, 1810 Boulton & Robinson (D'Arcy Boulton junior's first commercial enterprise.)

"The subscribers have just received, and offer for sale at their store in the House formerly occupied by William Willcocks, Esquire, a well chosen assortment (of) DRY GOODS, and GROCERIES; which they will dispose of upon very reasonable terms for Cash or Produce: consisting of:"

The advertisement is too long to re-produce in its entirety. Here are a few of the highlights: "Chair and Riding Whips; Map Handkerchiefs; Silk and Cotton Spider Net Sleeves; Superfine and common Needles, ditto with silver eyes; Crooked and fine tooth combs; Plug, Pigtail, & cut Tobacco; Prime & Spanish Port Wine, & Jamaica Spirits; Powder, Shot & pound lead."

There are 81 items listed in two columns and the ad. finishes by saying "Together with a General Assortment of Crockery and Glass Ware; besides numerous other Articles not here inserted." What an incredible selection, it must have been quite an adventure to shop there.

To comment on their "reasonable terms for cash or produce" In 1810, in fact up into the 1830s the barter system was an acceptable way of paying bills. The Proudfoot ledger covering the years 1827-1837, held by the Toronto Reference Library lists payments made by barrels of ashes (possibly Canada's first export industry), hams and barrels of flour. These last two "payments" were made by a William Skelly. William Alloway made two payments of veal and one of potatoes. Harry Shepard kept his debts paid with regular supplies of axes.

D'Arcy Boulton jr was in partnership with Proudfoot after the partnership with Robinson ended. The store was "Proudfoot" only after D'Arcy junior retired.

Research Committee